New air services

4194. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities in the different parts of the country where new air services are likely to be started during the current year;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. However, during current year *(i.e.* 2005) scheduled air services have been started to/from Dehradun, Kanpur, Nasik and Jabalpur.

International air services from Madurai Airport

4195. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give permission for international flight operations at Madurai Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any request from any domestic/ international carriers in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Madurai Airport has so far not been declared as an international airport. Although Indian carriers can operate from any airport in India including domestic airports, actual operations are ultimately guided by the commercial judgement of the airlines and traffic demand. No Indian carrier including the private scheduled airlines have so far evinced interest to operate international services to/from Madurai Airport.